

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: December 8, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on December 1, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response (Mercury Spill), North Leroy Avenue Mercury Site, Chicago, Illinois

On November 9, 2000, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Anita Boseman responded to a mercury spill in a private residence on the northwest side of Chicago, Illinois. The mercury was released from a blood pressure monitor in the residence on the 6400 block of Leroy Avenue. Chicago Department of the Environment reported the release to the National Response Center requesting assistance. Representatives of the Chicago Department of the Environment and Peoples Gas were present on the scene at the time of the report. High levels of mercury were present throughout the home, however no visible mercury was found. Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) and Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractors were activated to perform the cleanup. ERRS washed all the tile floors and removed all carpeting and contaminated items from the home. The family was temporally relocated to a relative's home. The cleanup has been closely coordinated with representatives of the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Contact: Anita Boseman (312-886-6941)

Response, Lisle Diesel Fuel Spill, Lisle, Illinois

On November 20, 2000, On-Scene Coordinator Barbi Lee responded to a diesel spill in Lisle, Illinois, at the request of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA). A representative from the Village of Lisle contacted the Illinois EPA about a sheen in Rott's Creek. The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund was opened and U.S. EPA mobilized an emergency response contractor to the scene to deploy absorbent boom and pads in several locations in the creek to try to prevent the spilled material from going any further downstream. Rott's Creek flows into several recreational ponds on Lisle Park District property and eventually flows into the East Branch of the DuPage River.

The diesel fuel spill was traced back to the Lisle Township Highway Department. Apparently, an employee was refueling a piece of equipment and walked away from the diesel fuel pump, which then overflowed. Although Oil Dry was placed on the spilled diesel fuel, the fuel material reached a storm sewer which drains into a tributary to Rott's Creek. The Lisle Township Highway Department was issued a Notice of Federal Interest in an Oil Pollution Incident and was advised to contact the National Response Center to report the spill. They hired a cleanup contractor to continue cleanup of the spilled material.

Contact: Barbi Lee (312-886-5296)

Settlement, Pioneer Metal Finishing Corporation Facilities, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Monroe, Michigan

On November 3, 2000 and November 8, 2000, Robert Springer, Director, Waste, Pesticides and Toxics Division, and William Muno, Director, Superfund Division, U.S. EPA, Region 5, signed a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO), settling an administrative action alleging violations of Section 312(a) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) at Pioneer Metal Finishing Corporation's Minneapolis, Minnesota, facility for the storage of nitric acid, sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, phosphoric acid, and fuel oil in quantities above their reporting threshold levels; and, three other administrative actions alleging violations of the reporting requirements of Section 313 of EPCRA at the company's Minneapolis, Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Monroe, Michigan, facilities. The four actions sought a sum total penalty of \$208,444.

The parties agreed to settle the entire matter for \$17,966 and the performance of a supplemental environmental project (SEP) costing \$70,000. The SEP involves installation at the Minneapolis facility of a Model BM 133 direct fired "make-up" air unit and booster fan that will enhance the efficiency and performance of an existing air scrubber. The SEP will reduce annual emissions on a facility-wide basis by as much as 25 percent for particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, lead, ME, MICK, toluene, methylene, chloride, phenols, methanol, propylene oxide, lead compounds, and antimony compounds.

Contacts: Michael McClary (312-886-7163)
Diana Embil (312-886-7889)

Meeting (Community Advisory Group), Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site, Uniontown, Ohio

On November 18, 2000, Ross del Rosario attended a meeting held by a newly-formed community advisory group (CAG) for the Industrial Excess Landfill (IEL) Superfund site in Uniontown, Ohio. The CAG has approximately 10 members who are residents of the area with backgrounds that include local official, businessman, university professor, and civic leader. The CAG was formed primarily to discuss future redevelopment plans for IEL now that a \$100,000 Superfund redevelopment initiative grant was awarded to the local government earlier this year. During the meeting, Mr. del Rosario explained the Superfund remedial process and answered many related questions from the group. The CAG plans to meet on a regular basis (monthly) and have expressed interest in having U.S. EPA participation in future meetings.

Contact: Ross del Rosario (312-886-6195)

Groundwater Survey, Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site, Uniontown, Ohio

On November 27, 2000, the latest groundwater survey at the Industrial Excess Landfill (IEL) Superfund site, Uniontown, Ohio, began. Responsible parties for IEL are leading this current survey, which will be quite similar to one that occurred in August 2000. Ross del Rosario observed field activities that occurred on November 28 & 29, 2000. A representative of the local government was also present to observe the field activities. Activities observed included: 1) installation of dedicated pumps at selected monitoring wells in the network; and, 2) the taking of water level measurements at each well. Actual

groundwater sampling will begin after water level measurements have been completed and all problems with pump installation have been addressed. This latest survey is expected to last 2-3 weeks in total and will include limited radiation sampling. A report summarizing the results of the survey will be prepared by the responsible parties and a copy will be sent to Region 5.

Contact: Ross del Rosario (312-886-6195)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Superfund/RCRA Reevaluation of Sites Deferred to RCRA, Chicago, Illinois

On November 3, 2000, Gerry Phillips, Corrective Action Manager, Waste, Pesticides & Toxics Division and Joe Dufficy, Jan Pels, and Jeanne Griffin, Brownfields Early Action Section of the Superfund Division, met to make decisions on sites that the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) identified in a March 1999 report, entitled "Superfund Sites Deferred to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)." The OIG recommended that Superfund reevaluate all sites deferred to RCRA that are not in the RCRA corrective action workload. The OIG also recommended that the two programs reach agreement on lead responsibility for these sites by the end of calendar year 2000. The Waste, Pesticides & Toxics Division is the lead for all sites where RCRA National Corrective Action Prioritization System (NCAPS) scores have been developed.

The OIG lists for Region 5 included 'Sites Subject to Corrective Action' (493 sites), and 'RCRA Handlers' (184 sites) that may not be subject to corrective action. Each site is given a Special Initiative flag: "RCRA Deferral - Lead Confirmed" for sites scored under the RCRA NCAPS model; or, "RCRA Deferral - New Decision" or "RCRA Deferral - Further Assessment" for sites to be addressed under Superfund. The Early Action Project Managers will be identifying the sites in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS). Region 5 States have begun to schedule field work for the 20 reassessments. It is the Region's intention to have all field activities completed by the end of fiscal year 2001.

Contacts: Jeanne Griffin (312-886-3007)
Jan Pels (312-886-3009)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Meeting (Mercury Containing Regulators), The American Gas Association

On December 5, 2000, Bill Munro, Rick Karl, Brad Stimple, and Ralph Dollhoph met with two representatives of the American Gas Association to discuss areas of future cooperation to deal with mercury containing pressure regulators. Based upon the Region 5 response activities to the NICOR residential sites, we were able to offer some general suggestions on best practices for the removal of regulators from individual residences. The American Gas Association (AGA) representatives informed us that the Institute of Gas Technology (IGT) is offering a series of training courses for gas utilities to discuss this same issue. We agreed that we would help disseminate information about the IGT training via a letter we are planning to send to gas utilities within Region 5. The AGA seemed willing to make their member utilities aware of needed screening and preventive measures to avoid another NICOR problem from occurring somewhere else in the United States.

Contact: Bill Munro (312-886-7578)

Geophysical Training Presented, 2000 On-Scene Coordinator Readiness Training Program, Phoenix, Arizona

On November 13, 2000, Mark Vendl and Jim Ursic participated as instructors at the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Readiness Training Program in Phoenix, Arizona. Their three-hour presentation covered three of the most common surface geophysical methods used at removal sites. The class included a "hands-on" session where attendees actually used the instruments to locate "targets." The class was attended by thirty-two people, including Regional OSCs and personnel from various State agencies. After the presentation, Mark and Jim presented a display booth at the technical exhibition to promote geophysical methods.

Contacts: Jim Ursic (312-353-1526)
Mark Vendl (312-886-0405)

Meeting, Showcase Communities of St. Louis, Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois

On November 7, 2000, Noemi Emeric, Office of Public Affairs, and Brooke Furio, Brownfields Early Action Section, along with

representatives from U.S. EPA Region 7 held a meeting with the Cities of St. Louis, Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois. The Cities of St. Louis and East St. Louis were designated a Brownfields Showcase Community this past October. Communities are awarded showcase status if there community can demonstrate a successful past in brownfields cleanup.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

Meeting, Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot, City of Elyria, Ohio

On November 21, 2000, Brooke Furio, Brownfields Early Action Section, along with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) met with the City of Elyria, Ohio. The City was awarded a \$200,000 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot this past September. This meeting was held to discuss the City's plans for spending the assessment funds provided by U.S. EPA. The City plans to use the funding to pay for environmental assessments on a 13-acre portion of the former Tappan Plant that is abandoned and suspected to be contaminated. Discussions focused on property control, Ohio EPA's Voluntary Action Program, and available resources. The meeting was attended by the Mayor, City Solicitor, City Engineer, Community Development Director, and several representatives of the Ohio EPA.

A separate meeting was held immediately after the aforementioned meeting. This meeting was held to allow the Lorain County Neighbors Protecting Our Environment an opportunity to voice their concerns about the City of Elyria's plans for the property. It was concluded that all parties involved have a similar goal of seeing the Tappan Property cleaned up and redeveloped. In attendance were, the City Assistant Director, City Solicitor, City Engineer, Community Development Director, Pauline Leboda, and several representatives from Lorain County Neighbors Protecting Our Environment.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

Meeting, Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund, Cuyahoga County, Ohio

On November 21, 2000, Brooke Furio, Brownfields Early Action Section, met with Virginia Aveni and representatives from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to discuss several opportunities for Cuyahoga County, Ohio, to make a loan from the \$350,000 U.S. EPA Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan

Fund (BCRLF). Cuyahoga County was awarded the \$350,000 U.S. EPA BCRLF in 1997 and has yet to make a loan. The purpose of the U.S. EPA BCRLF program is to provide a local government the resources needed to set up a revolving loan fund that will provide dollars for cleanups at brownfields properties. The discussion focused on eligible borrowers, payback mechanisms, and targeted projects.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

Milwaukee Menomonee Valley Brownfields Meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On November 28, 2000, Jane Neumann, Brownfields Early Action Section, participated in a joint meeting of the Legal and Scientific Advisory Committees for the Menomonee Valley Brownfields Pilot. The meeting drew a large Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) contingent (eight staff and managers), and included members of the Environmental Committee of the Menomonee Valley Partners (a 501(c)(3) organization). The group was considering for the first time collectively a recently drafted framework for the creation of a "groundwater liability management authority". The draft framework was well received on broad terms, and WDNR staff aired a few initial questions, promising written comments within a few weeks. This meeting marked a significant change in the tenor of discussions between the stakeholders for redevelopment of the Menomonee Valley. WDNR was encouraging to other participants about the possibility that an agreement may be reached using this approach which may allow natural attenuation, monitored by this "Authority", to be adopted as a sort of presumptive remedy for sites within the Valley. Much work remains to be done to develop specifics of financial assurance and the legal details. However, WDNR response to this document should clear the way now for development of sampling plans for the broader contaminant study needed to support the natural attenuation plan.

Contact: Jane Neumann (312-353-0123)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Letter of Appreciation

The following letter was received from Mike Shapario, the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER): "I want to thank you for

allowing Laura Ripley to serve with us here in Washington over the last six months. Laura came to OSWER on a rotational training assignment and quickly proved to be a valuable member of my budget staff. She has done a great job as the Superfund program analyst and made many important contributions to OSWER and the Agency. During her detail, Laura demonstrated sound judgment, great enthusiasm, and a wonderful ability to work with others. She also brought her practical knowledge of program implementation to bear on national policy issues. Her contributions were important, and she will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of working with her."

Contact: Bill Muno (312-886-7578)

Words of Thanks and Recognition

The following was sent by John Podgurski of Region 1 regarding Dion Novak: "On the behalf of the Region I Superfund Program, we'd like to thank you for your efforts to develop the Superfund Reuse Workshop and for serving as a presenter when we conducted the workshop on December 6th. The workshop was very well received by the RPMs, OSCs, and superfund attorneys that attended. The fact that we were able to share experiences from our two regions only added to its value.

Your extensive site experience, knowledge of Superfund reuse policies, and impressive speaking skills were all very evident throughout your presentations. We were fortunate to be able to benefit from your dedication to the reuse initiative.

Thank You, John Podgurski and Jim Dilorenzo"

Contact: Dion Novak (312-886-4737)

Words of Thanks and Recognition, Material Recovery Services (MRS) Landfill, Wisconsin

The following is from Amy Walden, Federal Removals Coordinator, Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in recognition of efforts by On-Scene Coordinators Ralph Dollhopf and Sam Borries: "Just wanted to forward this message with thanks for your timely, professional response to WDNR's request for U.S. EPA assistance at the MRS landfill. Please keep me informed of the sampling results for this site. Thank you."

The forwarded message included reports on site activities from

Dave Lundberg, Waste Team Supervisor, Department of Natural Resources, West Central Region - Eau Claire. A couple quotes from the reports are: 1) "We were all very impressed with the professionalism shown by Ralph and his crew. All this work was done in a day;" and, 2) "The RR program has been very helpful, indicating that we may be able to use money from the Environmental Fund to respond to an emergency. Amy Walden assisted us in contacting U.S. EPA, Region 5 to see if they could help out. This week, we've been working with Sam Borries of the Chicago office, and Ralph Dollhopf of Detroit - both OSCs. They've been very helpful. A summary of their intended involvement follows: Both men have experience with landfill fires, and they planned to visit MRS on Thursday, Nov. 30 to provide technical assistance to the owner and his consultant on how to suppress/contain the fire. MRS will use a backhoe to explore the extent of the fire at that time."

Contacts: Ralph Dollhopf (734-692-7682)
Sam Borries (312-353-2886)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Tim Fields (OSWER)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers